



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead. We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy. You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisyorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (1 st)	NO MASS
Tues. (2 nd)	6:00pm Holy Hour Devotion 7:00pm +Muriel Guy
Wed. (3 rd)	9:30am Graham Chase
Thurs. (4 th)	9:30am +Andre Turgeon
Fri. (5 th)	9:30am Mass of Thanksgiving
Sat. (6 th)	9:30am +Darlene Bernath
	5:00pm +Craig Pierce 7:00pm Russell Griffith
Sun. (7 th)	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Raymond & Barb Neumeier 5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you created me to live in the freedom of your love. Give me the courage to share your love with all people.

- From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Mr. Deacon Dave Hudy

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel we hear about Jesus confronting and expelling an unclean spirit from a man who had barged into the synagogue where Jesus was speaking. So, what was this incident all about? Was the man possessed by a demon? And what is the difference between an unclean spirit and a demon?

Father Peter Glas is a Catholic priest and exorcist in England. He is also, I think, a leading authority on possession, demons and spirits. Father Glas says that there is a difference between demons and spirits. One difference is that while demons have names, spirits are identified by what they do. For example, there are spirits of anger, envy, hatred, impurity, adultery, etc.

According to Father Glas, evil spirits attack us in three stages: temptation, obsession, and possession. We all deal with temptation, it is part of life; obsession is a giving way toward sin, and a gateway for unclean spirits to make their home in us. Obsessive behavior is generally caused by a wound that has never healed. A wound that probably happened early in life! Once one spirit makes its home in us, it will attract other related spirits, hence someone who has a spirit of anger may also have spirits of rage, revenge, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Someone with a spirit of lust may also have spirits of impurity, adultery and pornography. Likewise, someone with a spirit of depression may also have spirits of despair, hurt and discouragement.

The third stage is possession. It is rarer than obsessive behavior, but it is the next stage of the attack. Total possession is very rare and it must be entered into willingly. Partial possession is more common, though, and is also very serious. Help is needed.

Father Glas cautions that spirits seem friendly, at first. Their goal is to have us become accustomed to having them around. Think about the sin of anger - it can easily become a habit if we don't work to correct it. Sins that are addictions can easily become part of our being.

Unclean spirits are not the only reason for sin, as sin can also have environmental and physiological causes. But if a sin is habitual and if we are unable to make headway in breaking the cycle of sin, it may be worthwhile to think about the possibility of unclean spirits being part of the problem. Father Glas claims that unclean spirits need to be named and bound before they can be expelled by a priest in the name of Jesus. We don't know if Jesus named the spirit in today's Gospel, as Mark doesn't give us a whole lot of details. But, I suspect that Jesus did name it.

A final word about spirits. If there are unclean spirits, that means that there must also be clean spirits. I once heard that every community or group has a spirit. That is, every country, every province, each city, every parish. Think about how we can help the spirit of St Gerard's, of Yorkton or the community where we live, of Saskatchewan, and of Canada.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Dave Hudy

Mr. Deacon Dave Hudy was ordained into the Permanent Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Regina in 2018.

Care for Creation Reflection

We have come to realize that 'we are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental' (LS 139) exemplified in the throwaway culture repeatedly denounced in the statements of Pope Francis. 'We still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis. We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths and meeting the needs of the present with concern for all and without prejudice towards coming generations' (LS 53). Ecological conversion requires people to let "the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them" (LS 217)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

SACRAMENTS PREPARATION

BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next Baptism Preparation Session (date to be determined): 306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca

Preparation for:

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST RECONCILIATION

is postponed until further notice.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus

Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission. Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS JOURNEY OF FAITH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



Are you planning a marriage in 2021?

Congratulations!!

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 3 Executive Meeting – TBD Virtual
Feb. 10 General Meeting – TBD Virtual

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Encouragement to Consider Vaccination

Following the directives, guidance, and research carried out by the Vatican and other bodies of bishops world-wide, Archbishop Don supports efforts to provide vaccines to the people of Saskatchewan and encourages the faithful to seriously consider receiving the vaccine as it becomes available. Further information can be found at the following links:

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines" - <https://bit.ly/3ogmdJe>

"Vaccine for all: 20 points for a fairer and healthier world" Vatican Covid-19 Commission in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life - <https://bit.ly/3c8Tdkg>

Alberta and NWT Bishops OK vaccination for COVID - <https://bit.ly/39hC1qW>

How to Vaccinate Like a Catholic: A Guide Through the Prickly COVID-19 Issues - <https://bit.ly/3ol0aRI>

The Diocese Tonight Episode 4 The Church: Forever Young

The next episode of "The Diocese Tonight" airs on **Sunday February 14, 2021 at 7 pm.** It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina>



Bringing Home the Word

Progress Isn't Always Easy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus' miracles and preaching were part of what convinced people that he was the Son of God. He spoke like no other and then backed up his words with amazing and wonderful actions. For example, he confronted evil spirits and cast them out. The people were amazed and saw this as evidence of his divinity, because no one had absolute power over evil—except God himself. This is a power the Church continues to practice today through the ministry of healing and exorcism.

Jesus did not want to see people suffer under the power of Satan but rather wanted them to live full and happy lives. "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly," Jesus said in John 10:10. This strong desire of Jesus to heal and save drove him to tirelessly preach and do good. And because of this combination of goodness and power in his person, his fame spread. Yet the message he preached was challenging and demanding. Eventually many preferred to silence that good, powerful, but demanding voice.

Today, like Jesus, the Church still longs for nothing less than humanity's complete health and happiness. Yet, at times, the path to that human progress is not the easiest. Like temperamental children are chided by loving parents to eat healthy food rather than just what they like, so the good and powerful voice and actions of the Church are challenged.

We find our full flourishing as human beings and as Catholics by embracing Jesus' words and desires for us.

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The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
 - Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

Catechism Message: The Anointing of the Sick: Part 1 (CCC 1499-1505)

Illness reminds us of our finite nature. It limits our social interaction and our ability to serve others. Illness brings the end of our existence in clear view. It forces us to answer the ultimate questions of our purpose on earth.

Illness presents us with a choice. To reject God and the hope he brings. Or, to believe. Illness can provoke us to follow the path to spiritual death. Or, it can lead us to forgiveness, healing, and inspiration for others. In other words, illness can bring us and others to God. Illness can evangelize.

Christ came to show us the way to wholeness. He came to heal our bodies, our hearts, and our spirits. He heals in many different ways, but his healing always serves a greater purpose: faith. He heals as a way to announce the Kingdom of God.

When we suffer from illness, or serve others who are sick, we, too, are called to announce God's reign.

Reflect on an illness you have had. How did that illness challenge you? Did it increase your faith? Was the Lord close to you? Or did he feel distant?

If we listen for the words of the Lord in health or in sickness or in social isolation, he still delivers the same message. When we stand before God as his beloved, we experience healing. The healing may be at different levels and at different times, but we do experience a sense of wholeness. When we get right with the Lord, we get right with others and ourselves.

Our duty, our challenge, is to pass that message onto others through our words and healing deeds.

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Thursday, February 11 is the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes



Father Louis will celebrate two Masses, and will offer one of the Sacraments of Healing (the Anointing of the Sick) to anyone who is in need of healing of the mind, body, or spirit.

All must pre-register for these Masses. Registration will begin Monday, February 8 (online and by phone)

It's time to consider serving your parish as a Committee Chairperson on Parish Council!



The following are the positions (and terms)
that will soon be open for nominations.

Secretary	2 years	Liturgical	3 years
Public Relations	1 year	Family & Social	1 year
Community Life	3 years	Social Justice	3 years
Finance Chairperson	3 years	Hall	3 years
Properties	1 years		

Secretary - Records the minutes of all regular council and assembly meetings. Maintains those records for the parish files. Writes letters, thank you, or other correspondence with the approval of council. Ensures that each newly elected member is in possession of the current St. Gerard's Pastoral Constitution and the current Archdiocese of Regina Guidelines. Prepares highlights of the Parish Council meeting for the following Sunday bulletin.

Liturgical Committee - The Liturgy Committee consists of the following sub-committees: Sacristans; Altar Linen; Children's Liturgy; Ministries as Lectors, Welcomers, Communion Ministers, Communion to the Shut-ins, Hospitality and Altar Servers; Scheduling; Banners; Art and Environment; Music; and Office Liaison. Is responsible for working with the Pastor to promote, prepare, and provide for meaningful participation in all liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations. Shall, in conjunction with the Pastor, plan so as all members of the parish community may participate intelligently, prayerfully, and actively in liturgical celebrations.

Public Relations Committee - Keeps parishioners informed by means of newsletters and ensures the distribution of them. Promotes St. Gerard parish through the media. Maintains parish history, updates photo albums and scrapbooks, and arranges for photos/videos to be taken at parish functions.

Family and Social Committee - Organizes and carries out parish social activities, for example, the social functions associated with the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation. Coordinates coffee/lunch after Sunday Masses and for other occasions.

Community Life Committee - Sets up a "Welcome Ministry Team" for new parishioners, provides an information kit, and sets up a program to provide rides to Mass/parish functions for seniors and other parishioners in need of this service. Organizes newcomer socials. In cooperation with the Pastor, Hall Manager, and team captains, makes decisions on how best to serve funeral lunches for our bereaved families.

Social Justice Committee - Promotes education on the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and promotes and administers the project during Lent.

Finance Council Chairperson - Shall carry out his/her duties as mandated in Article IX and X of the Parish Constitution. Shall present a detailed written financial statement and report at each meeting of council and be prepared to answer questions from council members. Prepares an audited financial statement for the annual meeting. Prepares an annual budget of the parish.

Hall Committee - Determines rental fees, approves operational regulations, ensures proper financial records, oversees the maintenance and repair of the plant, monitors the performance of the Hall Manager, and provides a separate financial statement in detail for the Annual Report and annual Meeting.

Properties Committee - Is responsible for the maintenance and operational care of the Church, the Rectory, the Hall, the grounds, and the equipment belonging to St. Gerard Parish.

For more information about these positions, please contact a current member of Parish Council, Father Louis, or the Parish Office.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Cleansing the Unclean Spirit"

This Week...

Moses speaks of another prophet that God will raise up, and Paul speaks of being completely dedicated to the service of God. Then Jesus comes along, and people are amazed at his words and deeds. His first act of power in Mark's Gospel is to make clean the people with unclean spirits.

For Your Reflection

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue, and people are impressed with his sense of authority. Jesus is "real." He isn't preachy or arrogant or standoffish or "churchy." He speaks at their level, he makes sense, he believes in what he is saying, and he doesn't want to play games with prestige or status.

- Do you know any teachers at school who have that gift?
- Do you know any leaders in your community or your church who are like that?
- Describe an adult you can relate to, one who is "real."

Jesus cleaned the unclean. He recognized the unclean, he knew what clean and unclean were all about, and he took action and made a difference.

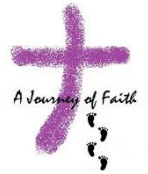
- Anytime we clean anything, we take those same steps. We have to recognize the need to clean, we have to know what clean looks like, and we have to take action so that the unclean becomes clean. What is something you have cleaned that took quite a bit of work?
- Anytime we have a personal problem we need to clean up, or a bad habit we need to cure, we take the same basic cleaning steps. What personal cleaning have you done for yourself? What prompted you to act?
- Sometimes personal cleaning comes as a surprise. It can happen when something difficult challenges us or something sad moves us or something awesome inspires us. Has that ever happened to you?



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. It is a warm, welcoming experience that introduces the Christian faith in our Roman Catholic tradition. We explore topics such as Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, Church history and the core beliefs of the Church. Anyone who has taken this "leap of faith" has found it to be a life-altering experience.

The RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized. There are several rites and stages that are part of the process to prepare adults for Baptism and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission.



Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer.

If you are interested in this journey of faith, please contact Fr. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

And to all our friends in St. Gerard's parish, we remind you that we all have a responsibility to share our faith and bring others to Christ. If you know of a family member, friend, co-worker or fellow student who is searching for a deeper meaning in their life, let them know about RCIA.

LOST SOMETHING?



Mitts, toques, etc. – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc. – contact the Parish Office.

OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in Regina on a daily basis.

The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission – Searching for God's purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, diplomainministry@stfx.ca